The Honorable Bobby J. Hopewell
Mayor of Kalamazoo
241 West South Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4796

Dear Mayor Hopewell:

Thank you for your April 4, 2013 letter regarding the City of Kalamazoo's concerns about the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site.

As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not yet proposed a remedy for the Allied Paper Landfill. EPA is evaluating a variety of cleanup alternatives and values the City's input. Some of the alternatives being considered include on-site consolidation and capping and total removal of the waste. On April 12, 2013 my staff provided you with detailed responses to a number of questions, referenced in your letter, that your office forwarded to us.

Groundwater monitoring data indicate that polychlorinated biphenyls and other contaminants are not leaving the Allied Paper Landfill, and groundwater at the site does not flow toward the City well field. Therefore, contamination at the site is not threatening the City's well field. EPA shares your concern about preventing contamination at the site from washing into Portage Creek and recontaminating the creek and the Kalamazoo River. EPA is confident that a waste-in-place cleanup alternative, if selected, would be designed to prevent such a problem. Additionally, any waste-in-place alternative would be designed to prevent direct contact with the waste. EPA cannot select a remedy unless it is protective of human health and the environment.

After EPA's evaluation of various cleanup alternatives, known as a Feasibility Study, is complete, that document will be shared with the public. EPA will also work with the City and other stakeholders to try to address any concerns with the alternatives that were evaluated before issuing its proposed cleanup plan for public comment.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Richard Karl, Superfund Division Director, at (312) 353-9773.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator